

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, JA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN BUYER PROGRAM: AMERICAN TEXTILE MACHINERY
EXHIBITION INTERNATIONAL, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER
21-29, 1976

SUMMARY: 42 REPRESENTATIVES OF NARROW WOVEN FABRIC MANUFACTURERS
WILL VISIT ATME-1 SHOW, SEEKING SMALL-PRODUCTION, HIGH
EFFICIENCY NARROW FABRIC PRODUCTION MACHINES. WHILE IN U.S.
GROUP WISHES TO LEARN PRESENT STATUS OF U.S. NARROW FABRIC
INDUSTRY. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW
U.S. INDUSTRY TIDED OVER BUSINESS SLOW-DOWN IT EXPERIENCED
SOME 10 YEARS AGO PARTIALLY DUE TO INFLOOD OF JAPANESE-MADE
PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

1. KANTO TEXTILE SUNDRIES INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, 8 KABUTO-CHO
1-CHOME, CHUO-KU, TOKYO (MEMBERSHIP: 165) WILL SPONSOR GROUP
OF 42 REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS MEMBERS TO VISIT ATME-1 SHOW.
THEY ARE MANUFACTURERS OF METALIC AND NON-METALIC NARROW
WOVEN FABRICS SUCH AS BRAIDS AND TRIMMINGS, WOVEN
LABELS, CORDAGE, HEMS, SLEEVES, LACES AND EMBROIDERIES.
PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT IS TO LEARN HOW U.S. INDUSTRY
HAS MODERNIZED ITS PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE
ITS COMPETITIVENESS AND TO SEEK INFORMATION ON SMALL
PRODUCTION CAPACITY, NARROW WOVEN FABRIC MACHINES.
ASSOCIATION SPONSORED SIMILAR GROUP LAST YEAR TO
EUROPE.

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2. GROUP WISHES TO MEET WITH NARROW FABRIC SPECIALISTS

OR REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE ASSOCIATIONS ON MONDAY OCT. 18 IN NEW YORK AND/OR FRIDAY OCT. 22 IN GREENVILLE. GROUP ALSO WISHES TO VISIT NARROW FABRIC MANUFACTURERS ON THESE DAYS. NAIGAI TRAVEL SERVICE, ASSOCIATION'S TRAVEL AGENT, IS WRITING DIRECTLY TO ATME-I FOR ASSISTANCE IN GREENVILLE. GROUP ALSO WISHES TO VISIT USDOC ON AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY 20TH IF USDOC CAN ARRANGE BRIEFING ON U.S. NARROW FABRIC INDUSTRY.

3. GROUP ITINERARY FOLLOWS: OCT. 15TH: AR. SAN FRANCISCO. 16TH: LV. SAN FRANCISCO, FOR NEW YORK. 17TH-18TH: NEW YORK. 19TH: LV. NEW YORK FOR WASHINGTON DC. 20TH: LV. WASHINGTON DC FOR GREENVILLE. 21ST-22ND: GREENVILLE. 23RD: LV. GREENVILLE FOR LAS VEGAS. 24TH LV. LAS VEGAS FOR LOS ANGELES. 25TH: LOS ANGELES. 26TH LV. LOS ANGELES FOR HONOLULU. 27TH: LV. HONOLULU FOR JAPAN.

4. POST COMMENT: THIS INDUSTRY FACES BOTH SLUGGISH DOMESTIC DEMAND AND COMPETITION FROM TAIWAN, KOREA AND HONG KONG. TO MOVE OUT OF SLUMP, IT IS DISMANTLING OBSOLETE MACHINES, CURTAILING PRODUCTION AND TRYING TO BRANCH INTO OTHER FIELDS. FROM 1971 TO 1976 NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS DECREASED FROM 4,636 TO 4,068, AND NUMBER OF MACHINES WENT FROM 175,873 TO 152,539. END COMMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GROUP HAS REQUESTED USDOC ASSISTANCE TO A) ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS AND SPECIALISTS AND/OR PLANT TOURS AS DESCRIBED PARA 2 B) OBTAIN CATALOGS OF NARROW FABRIC PRODUCTION MACHINES TO BE EXHIBITED AT ATME SO THEY CAN TRANSLATE AND STUDY BEFORE THE SHOW AND C) OBTAIN INFORMATION ON NARROW FABRIC PRODUCTION MACHINE MANUFACTURERS THAT WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN ATME.
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